



Town of Weare
Conservation Commission
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Conservation Commission

Andrew Fulton, Chairman
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William Bolton
Lori Davis
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Michael Camacho

CONSERVATION COMMISSION DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2018

Present: Andrew Fulton, Steve Najjar, William Bolton, Lori Davis, Michael Camacho.
Guests: Mariah Keagy, Brooke Scatchard.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was call to order at 7:16 PM by Chairman Fulton.

II. DISCUSSION:

- a. Planning Board:** Reviewed a Lot Line Adjustment (LLA) for applicants Terrence & Leann Proctor of 64 Reservoir Drive (map/lot 201-10) and Claude & Deborah Raymond of 405 No. Stark Hwy (map/lot 201-14). Discussion involved bringing this property up to par with the Zoning Regulations. All agreed this would not be a concern.
- b. NHDES – An acknowledgment of receipt of Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry**
Complete Forestry Notification to NH Dept. of Cultural & Natural Resources (map/lot 401-035) to begin work provided the conditions listed in the letter are followed and work is completed by cessation date of September 14, 2020.
- c. NHDES Shoreland Permit Application (RSA 483-B):** Considered for James Dow, 196 Colby Road, File Number 2018- 02875, (map/lot 112-168.10). Application was returned due to check error for application payment.
- d. NHDES Complaint:** Land Resources Management File Number 2018-0304, Joseph & Lori Maribito, East Shore Drive, (map/lot 101-4). Chairman Fulton reread possible violations of RSA 482-A & RSA 483-B stated in the letter, and noted the 20 day response needed from the property owners. Mr. Bolton suggested that these types of letters should come to the Commission with additional information (possibly resourced by a Town employee who would look up pertinent information with a file number or such), and include with letters for review. Also, in order to have Town authority, site walks must be done in a

group. You are considered a casual observers acting alone when visiting as a single person or with another person. Mr. Najjar suggested that the Building Inspector should inspect suspected violation sites, then report back to the Commission.

- e. **NHDES Complaint:** Land Resources Management File Number 2018-03041, Nicolas & Denise Fox, East Shore Drive, (map/lot 101-4). This complaint letter is a duplicate to the above letter, but addressed to different property owners. More information is needed.

- f. **Sinuosity Presentation:** Trail Development and Maintenance Plan for Weare Town Forests. Ms. Keagy presented the plan to the Board, and began by stating all in all there isn't much opportunity for a trail system in Weare, although there is a pronounced need. Even though there weren't as many opportunities as she expected to find, she identified two parcels of land that could conceptually could be used:

*Eastman Conservation Area: Used mostly by ATV enthusiasts now, but there are flooding areas to consider. A benefit for a trail system here is that it adjoins John Stark Regional High School where access could have great educational opportunities. The old logging road could use culverts and Rattlesnake Mtn Trail has motorized encroachment. There are 3-4 access points potentially. In the easement, there are no allowances for ATV use. A bridge would be required if this parcel was chosen. Ms. Davis inquired about permission to connect these trails to the Goffstown Rail Trail association. Mr. Bolton stated a North -South trail is being considered on this property for snowmobile use. Ms. Keagy shared that the prettiest viewpoint is on a neighboring land, unfortunately. Mr. Bolton suggested to look at other conservation land in the area. It was mentioned to pursue easements on this property and to reach out to neighbors on nearby conserved land.

*Wood Family Forest: Ms. Keagy explained that there is currently a snowmobile trail on this property and some really awesome trees that include Black gum. She imparted there is nice opportunity for a trail system here. Conservation with Park & Recs would be needed to have Bolton Field joined to the trail system and good parking opportunity exists on this property. There is potential for trails that are bike-friendly on this parcel, and Ms. Keagy explained when talking to Town residents while doing this study that there is a huge need for bike-friendly trails in the community of Weare. Chairman mentioned how the Conservation Fund is a powerful tool and could be used for these purposes. Ms. Davis inquired about restrictions on limitations regarding the trails in Weare? Ms. Keagy stated there would be on the recreational routes. Motorized and horse trails would go together. Bike & Hike trails have less impact. Snowmobile trails

require wider distances. Horses need compact surfaces because they displace with an 18' soil impact. Ms. Davis wondered what are the residents needs in Town for the trails system.

Other properties that were considered, but did not suffice:

*Bartlett Town Forest: There are logging roads, but steep in places and wet. Poor drainage soil.

*Chevy Hill Town Forest: Possibly come back here in ten years to reconsider. Could potentially get a nice loop, but not the most efficient place for trails.

*Felch Farm Town Forest: Whole lot of wetlands, so unless you want bridges and permits, leave this property alone. A pro would be the historic sites, but it might not be enough to draw residents.

*Ferrin Pond Conservation Area: The terrain did not allow for expansion for use. The end route is not Town Forest and areas that aren't on the trail are very wet.

*Poor Farm Town Forest: Existing loop needs restoration, and bridges are in need of replacement. Major poison ivy growth.

*Toby Hill Town Forest: Small property and the most you can get is one mile of trail for use.

It was reminded that the Conservation Commission is not a recreation commission and the Chairman expressed how this compromises the Board. Surveys could be used to find out what Town residents would like. Ms. Keagy suggested a timeline based on funding allocation. What are the draws for people and where is the access for folks. Mr. Bolton suggested the public need will drive the development of the trail system. Chairman Fulton wants a public forum with advertising, refreshments, and a place to discuss issues and ask questions. Ms. Davis suggests to do the forum in the Spring, outside of budget season. Mr. Bolton suggested that trail maintenance and time schedule is important to consider. A final submittal will be drafted and brought back to the committee. Mr. Najjar is concerned about funding. Ms. Keagy explained that trail grants can be considered and the report has added value for grant writing. The Chairman is not clear on how to advance, so the committee needs to review the report and set expectations, which shall be done in a month's time.

g. Mr. Najjar informed the Board regarding infringement on the Eastern Conservation Area. Someone is camping and leaving the tents set-up. Ms. Davis asked if anyone granted permission. He explained that no permission was granted. Mutual property boundary has logs and other debris/equipment on it. Easement monitor is concerned about large equipment that was left. A letter should be sent to Laura and to bordering property owners not to leave their

stuff on Town land. Mr. Najjar also inquired if it should be solely easement driven and if trees are there, can we blaze the easements? Whose duty is it to enforce easements?

h. Town tax land. No decisions made, more information is needed.

i. Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF); Discussion involved an easement monitoring letter regarding Collins Ledge [164 acres] There needs to be surveyor work done to mark boundaries, and we need to know what the cost be. An email to Laura needs to be drawn up. Should a quote for an estimate from Meridian be done.

III. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 11-14-2018 @ 7 PM

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Davis moved to adjourn at 9:57 PM, Mr. Camacho seconded; passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Provencher

Transcribed from notes and recording